



SAINT COLUMBKILLE

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

Message from the Head of School

Dear Families,

It was good to see so many of you recently for a discussion regarding the state of the school. After our conversations, I wanted to share additional information regarding our new designation as laboratory school. Laboratory schools were common in the late 1800s; prestigious universities created schools and experimented with teaching practice. Theory was then created from the research that was conducted. The name “laboratory school” is not commonly used outside of academic circles. The name could imply that children are the subjects of experiments. In the laboratory school model that we have created, this will not be the case.

I have been in talks with Dean Stanton Wortham of the Lynch School of Education for the past 10 months to evaluate our extraordinary relationship with Boston College. As you probably know, Boston College saved our school 11 years ago when closure was imminent. Initially, the university paid for extensive building renovations and subsidized the school’s operating budget. They sent an army of professors who worked with the teachers to select and implement new curricula. They offered free Master’s degrees to the teachers in exchange for years of service to Saint Columbkille.

After a few years, Saint Columbkille became a preferred site for student teacher placement. Our teachers became the teachers of teachers. Many of the student teachers ultimately were hired as our full-time teachers.

Our connections with the Lynch School of Education and Boston College blossomed and continued to grow. We began to engage professors to provide ongoing professional development for our teachers. Undergraduate volunteers began to tutor and mentor our students. Boston College’s facility manager’s phone number was put on speed dial.

For all intents and purposes, we have been a laboratory school for many years. This past year’s discussions centered on codifying and intensifying the practice that has already been taking place.

As a laboratory school, our teachers and administrators will identify areas that we would like to study and researchers from Boston College will work directly with our teachers to research them. We will use the research to train our teachers and make sure our school will continue to be a cutting edge and innovative school.

I am acutely aware that many Catholic elementary schools across the country are in trouble. Saint Columbkille is now positioned to serve as a beacon of light for Catholic schools that can benefit from our experience; we can provide a template for success.

We will be hosting a reception for parents and our partners from Boston College to celebrate our work together. As soon as we confirm a date and time, we will let you know.

With the designation of laboratory school, I am confident that Saint Columbkille will continue to offer the best education possible; many years after your children have graduated. And, we will not be experimenting on the children.

Sincerely,
William Gartside

News & Updates



Representatives from Catholic University in Chile visited the classrooms this week to learn more about our school.

Spring Picture Day

Spring Picture Day will be on Tuesday, April 24th. Forms will be sent home on Monday, April 23rd. Students who are having their picture taken may be out of uniform. Only students who have paid for pictures will be photographed. Payments can be made online or by sending in the payment on Tuesday with the form.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities for parents to complete their service hours over the coming months.

Opportunities include:

- Pasta Supper: April 27th
- BC Race to Educate: April 28th
- Book Fair: Week of May 21st
- Field Day: June 19th

[Click here to volunteer!](#)



Leslie Douglas, one of our BC readers came to bring spring to Ms. Mooney's room!



5th grade blending analogous colors with chalk pastel and liquid starch on their giant

Summer Programming

A six-week STEM Academy is offered from July 9th to August 17th to students entering grades 5, 6, and 7. Students will deepen their understanding of STEM concepts through hands-on lab, fieldwork, and engagement in the engineering design process.

An eight-week summer program is offered from June 25th to August 17th to students entering grade pre-kindergarten through grade 4. This program provides a range of academic, enrichment, and recreational activities.

[Click here to enroll!](#)

Calendar Of Events

April 13

- Vocabulary Day PK - Grade 5
- BC Race to Educate Pep Rally 2:30 PM

April 15

- 2017 Federal tax return and W2 due to FACTS Grant and Aid

April 16 - 20

- April Vacation - No School

April 24

- Spring Picture Day

April 26

- PK Morning Coffee in the library 8 AM

April 27

- Spirit Day - Race to Educate
- Pasta Supper

April 28

- BC Race to Educate

Looking for something fun to do this weekend? Check out the Cambridge Science Festival! [Click here for more information.](#)

2018 BC Race to Educate

THE BC RACE TO EDUCATE IS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AWAY!
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

Need help registering or setting up a pledge page? Contact Kate Ward at kward@stcps.org to set up an appointment.

Progress Toward our 2018 Goals



[Click here to register for the BC Race to Educate!](#)

2018 BC Race to Educate Sponsors

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